

as an institution is going to miss ROY as well.

ROY is someone who aspires to be involved in doing the hard things. And throughout his congressional career, he has put himself forward for positions where he can make a difference.

He became chief deputy whip just 2 years after becoming a member of the House, and he was elected majority whip just 4 years later, winning the position earlier in his career than any member in Congress in eight decades.

It has been a similar story in the Senate where ROY was elected vice chairman of the Republican Conference in his first year. In 2019, he became chairman of the Republican policy committee which plays an important role in providing members and staff with the resources they need on the issues. And he has done that while serving as the top Republican on the Senate Rules Committee.

ROY has always been committed to doing the big things, but he is also very solutions-oriented and very clear-eyed and practical about what is achievable in a place where it is hard to get things done.

He has a saying: Never announce publicly what you won't vote for. What he means by that is that you shouldn't back yourself into a position where you can't support a good compromise. While it is not always possible to get everything you want, you shouldn't let that stop you from doing as much good as you can.

ROY has done a lot of good during his time in Congress, and one of his lasting legacies will be the bipartisan achievements in the healthcare space, including his efforts to help create and expand the certified community behavioral health clinics program to improve access to mental health care and championing medical research. The facility housing the NIH's Center for Alzheimer's and Related Dementias is actually named after ROY in honor of his longtime work to support dementia research. And, of course, no mention of ROY's legacy would be complete without mentioning his stalwart advocacy for the people of Missouri.

I am going to miss ROY, and the Senate will miss ROY, but I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve together, and I am happy he will have more time to spend with Abby and his children and grandchildren.

ROY has made a lasting impact here in the Senate, and I look forward to seeing his next chapter.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES M. INHOFE

Mr. President, shortly before Thanksgiving, one of great icons of the Senate, Senator JIM INHOFE, gave his farewell speech, and I want to take the time today to honor his service.

As I said, JIM is one of the icons of the Senate, and it is difficult to imagine things here without him. Over his 28-year career, he has built an incredible legacy, particularly when it comes to building up our military and developing our relationships in Africa.

One of the first trips I took when I got to the Senate was a trip with JIM to Iraq and Germany to meet with some of our troops and to talk to our military leadership. I would like to think I am a pretty energetic guy, but I was left in awe by JIM INHOFE. He was like the Energizer Bunny. He left people half his age in the dust.

I don't know anybody who works harder than JIM. He leads by example, and his legislative achievements are a tribute to his tireless service.

Everyone knows that JIM INHOFE is an accomplished legislator, but not everybody knows that JIM is also an accomplished pilot. He has over 11,000 flight hours. I mentioned that he is like the Energizer Bunny, and he has flown an airplane around the world. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to be his passenger once as we flew around Oklahoma, and it remains one of the best flights I have ever taken.

While I deeply admire JIM's work ethic and his legislative achievements and his piloting prowess, I might add, the thing I appreciate the most about JIM INHOFE is that he is a man of deep and profound faith. I have been blessed to gather with him and other Senators for Bible study for a number of years now, and I don't think he has ever missed a session.

When I think about JIM, I think about the verse in I Peter that says, "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you." JIM INHOFE is always ready to give that defense.

JIM isn't a man who pays lip service to his faith; he models it and he lives it. In word and deed, he is a great ambassador for his Savior, and I will miss his presence and his witness.

While I will miss JIM being in the Senate, I am glad he and his beloved wife Kay will now have more time to spend together with their children and their grandchildren, and I wish him the very best for retirement. He has more than earned some time off.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Before the Senator leaves, the Bible study that he has referenced is one that JIM and I and a handful of other Democrats and Republicans join in every Thursday when we are in session, with Barry Black, the Chaplain of the Senate, and it has been hosted literally in the hideaway of JIM INHOFE. So it is a home game for him, but it is a home game for Democrats and Republicans just to share some time together in prayer and faith and some of the challenges we face.

Some people across the country watch the news all the time—you would think we hate each other here and we never want to work together, never want to get anything done. Thanks in no small part to JIM INHOFE's hospitality and participation and example, that is not the case.

So I just want to add my comments as well.

He is the two-time chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee and a great partner with me in reducing emissions from buses and diesel engines and stuff like that. He is the lead Republican on the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act. So I just want to say there are some good environmentalists in Oklahoma, and on all the issues we have dealt with, JIM INHOFE has been one of those.

Mr. THUNE. Would the Senator from Delaware yield for just a minute?

Mr. CARPER. Sure.

Mr. THUNE. I just want to thank you for what you have said about Senator INHOFE and about our Bible study.

I would say to all of our colleagues that of all the time we spend here each and every week, that particular hour is arguably the most impactful, and I always encourage other of our colleagues to join us. We have been meeting, as Senator TOM CARPER mentioned, in Senator INHOFE's office now for many, many years and have been very blessed by his leadership not only here in the Senate but his witness with regard to his faith.

Mr. CARPER. People ask me: What do you like most about being in the Senate? What do you like most about public service? I like helping people. When they ask me more specifically what gives me joy in the Senate, it is that Thursday, it is that half an hour we spend together just about every Thursday. I am always pleased to be there with our colleagues—sometimes even work out in the gym together.

TRIBUTE TO JIM GARDNER

Mr. President, now to talk about another Jim—and I have been joined by CHRIS, CHRIS COONS, our Senator from the State of Delaware, and I am delighted to join Senator COONS and also our colleague in the House. We only have one congressional seat in the House, and it is filled by LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER. We are all going to be talking—not today here on the floor—Senator COONS and I will be, but LISA will be talking over in the House about Jim Gardner.

Who is Jim Gardner? He is an icon. That is a word you hear a whole lot, but he is truly an icon. He is signing off the air after 40 years of delivering the news for WPVI-6abc, which really is the dominant, if you will, television station in the whole Delaware Valley, including Delaware and southeastern Pennsylvania, parts of Maryland, and parts of New Jersey as well.

Jim has been delivering the news not just for that station, but he has been delivering the news for all of us, and one of the reasons why that station has enjoyed incredible ratings is in no small part because of his presence at the station. He has been a steady voice for viewers in the region, anchoring the 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. newscasts for as long as I can remember. Throughout that time, he earned the respect and he earned the trust of millions of viewers

who invited him into their homes on their televisions every night, including our home in Delaware.

Jim's career was born before he even graduated college. He was attending Columbia University in the late 1960s. Our country was in turmoil over race and the Vietnam war—a war in which I served. His first ever report was on the historic student riots on campus. That gave him his first taste of broadcast journalism.

He went on to report for a radio station—I think it was WINS Radio—and then another station called WFAS and then WKBW-TV in New York City before making his way down south to join us in the Delaware Valley in 1976, when he joined WPVI-TV as a reporter and as anchor for “Action News at Noon.”

Just shy of 1 year later, he became the anchor of the 6 o'clock news and the 11 o'clock broadcast, where he has been every night—every night—since, helping guide viewers through noteworthy events both globally and locally.

Over the years, Jim's assignments included interviews. He has interviewed a lot of Presidents and folks who maybe aspire to be President. I don't. Among those are Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Herbert Walker Bush, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and a scrappy kid from Scranton who ended up as a Senator from Delaware, Joe Biden, who is now our President.

Throughout the years, Jim has interviewed Philadelphia mayors—I can't count all the ones—from Frank Rizzo to Jim Kenney, and he has covered I think 21 political conventions. Think about that—21 political conventions. There is a special place in Heaven for Jim Gardner for doing that, I will tell you.

Locally, Jim was the narrating voice of our 2008 Phillies and 2018 Eagles world championship parades, and those teams were really good this year as well. The Phillies made it all the way to the World Series, and the Eagles are knocking on the door to do something special in the NFL playoffs later this year.

As the “Action News” opening song says “Move closer to your world,” he has also traveled abroad to help us understand some of the biggest stories in history—not just in Delaware, not just in the Delaware Valley, but across the world. He reported from the Vatican to cover the death of, for example, Pope Paul VI. He traveled to Germany to cover the return of American hostages from Iran. He reported from Russia and Lithuania after the fall of the Soviet Union. He covered the Oslo Accords from Israel and from the West Bank. He traveled to Cuba to cover Pope John Paul II and then went to Argentina to report on the life of Pope Francis.

Perhaps what has allowed Jim to hold the trust of his viewers while engaging his audience night after night is that no matter where he has traveled—no matter where he has traveled—he

understands that what matters to his viewers most can be found right in our own backyards, community events, at school board and town council meetings, houses of worship, and by talking to our neighbors.

It is with great pleasure that we rise on behalf of Delaware's congressional delegation to honor the exemplary career of Jim Gardner.

I want to say, Jim, to you and your family, congratulations on a job well done. We want to convey our thanks to your wife Amy—there is a special place in Heaven for her and for our spouses as well—and to your four children for sharing their dad with us and the people of our region of America. Delaware Valley is a better place because of you. God bless. Godspeed.

With that, I am pleased to yield to my wingman from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I join my colleague from our home State of Delaware in ensuring that Jim Gardner's four decades of leadership in our community, in our local news, and in laying down a marker for what it means to be a real journalist, a trusted and loyal and important part of community leadership—that his service will be remembered and recognized in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Jim Gardner, as my colleague laid out in great detail, born and raised in New York City, turned on to journalism as a student at Columbia University by reporting on the historic Columbia riots in 1968 and then began his remarkable run with WPVI-TV Philadelphia on June 1, 1976.

I have had the honor of being in the newsroom and talking with Jim as he has prepared for a broadcast, of getting a sense of just how good and balanced and thoughtful a journalistic leader he is.

For all of us, it is a real loss that, four decades later, Jim has anchored his last regularly scheduled 11 p.m. broadcast. He is still anchoring the 6 p.m. news.

I will tell you, Jim, my wife Annie and I love watching you. You have given us a sense of continuity, of community, and of character in our local news, unmatched in so many other communities around our country. You are a genuine treasure, a jewel of the Delaware Valley, and we will miss you deeply. You have interviewed Popes and Presidents, local elected officials and international leaders. You have contributed to our understanding of our place in the world and brought us closer together.

I just wanted to say to you personally, congratulations on your retirement. I know that you will get to spend more time with Josh, Jenn, Emily, and Jesse, and your grandson Henry.

Thank you to Amy.

As my colleague and friend TOM CARPER said, it is our spouses who often experience the highs and the lows of our public service, and I know your family has supported you through this remarkable work.

It would be impossible to list all the stories that you reported on or contributed to, but know, Jim, that you have left a lasting legacy in the hearts of the millions of people who have watched you over decades and felt that they were brought a little bit closer to their world.

Thank you, and we look forward to recognizing you in the RECORD of the United States Senate.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I know the Senator from Kentucky and the Senator from Michigan are trying to work through some differences on a potential unanimous consent request, but I have asked them if I might make a few remarks if they are not quite ready yet, and they have graciously allowed me to do so.

What I want to talk about is—it is December 6. It is 19 days until Christmas, and the 117th Congress is quickly coming to a close, but there is a lot of work that needs to be done in the meantime—first, the National Defense Authorization Act, which I hope will be the next order of business.

You know, when people ask me, “What are your priorities when it comes to representing the State of Texas in the U.S. Senate?” I say: Well, it is clear there is one priority, and that is the strength and security and safety of our Nation and our way of life—to preserve and protect the peace and to protect the freedom of all Americans.

The way we do that is through the National Defense Authorization Act. It is, I believe, the most important piece of legislation that we consider each year, among other important pieces of legislation. This is how we support our troops, how we support our military families in an all-volunteer military, how we maintain our military bases, how we modernize our weapons systems and airframes and invest in the next generation of weapons.

I believe what Ronald Reagan said—that we maintain peace through strength—and when we don't make our national defense a priority, when we neglect the most important responsibilities we have here, it sends the wrong message to our adversaries and those who would take advantage of a power vacuum left by an America that refuses to lead.

The National Defense Authorization Act is how we strengthen our relationships with old allies and forge strong partnerships with new ones. For example, as a result of the invasion of